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**Matric number: 19/MHS01/277**

 **AN HIISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE**

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. While the pre-colonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialists to Nigeria, the colonial period is the period that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria.

**EARLY MAN IN NIGERIA**

The exact time man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but archeological evidences have shown that it has been inhabited since the Palaeolithic period 500,000-9000BC. Archaeologists also found that that Nigerians took part in the stone-age civilization. The Stone Age can be divided into: Early stone age 3000,000-35,000BC; Middle stone age 35,000-15,000BC and Late stone age, 15,000-500BC.

**THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EARLY MAN**

The early man’s priority then was food and so he hunted animals for food and gathered fruits. Soon, he began to invent tools form pebbles and stones, some of which were later found in the middle and late stone ages. Later on, he invented another type of tool, which is a heavy chopper and was more efficient in cutting than existing tools. There is evidence of more advanced technology in various parts of Nigeria during the bronze and metal age. One of the most active periods in Nigeria was around 500BC to 200AD. During this period, people made sculptures of human heads and figures which Varied in size.

**THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY NIGERIAN SOCIETIES**

**Major Landmark in Early Nigerian History**

Some of the places where man lived were very remote and this was found out through the excavation work done on those places. For example; Nok, Igbo Ukwu, etc

**NOK CULTURE/CIVIIZATION**

The discovery of a terracotta (burnt clay) monkey head was made here by tin miners in 1963, this then prompted more discoveries in other places.

**BENIN CIVILIZATION**

As claimed by Art historians, bronze casting was introduced into Benin by an Ife artist.

**IFE CIVILIZATION**

Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads. Art historians believe that Ife art originated from Nok culture because of the similarities between the two, especially beaded neck, wrist and ankles. They also believe that it was from Ife that Benin probably learn bronze sculpture

**IGBO-UKWU CIVILIZATION**

Some bronze objects and ornaments were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo Ukwu in 1939. Many objects made of bronze were discovered in the various sites including the remains of decayed skeleton which have been suggested to be those of a king and five slaves who were buried with him.

The three major ethnic groups of Nigeria would be examined

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN YORUBA LAND**

This is one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria. Oduduwa was the founder and Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people.

**THE OKE-ORAMFE’S VERSION OF THE VERSION OF THRE ORIGIN OF THE YORUBA**

 The oke-oramfe is located in Ile-Ife. It is believd to be the centre from which the world was created. The almighty GOD sent his messengers with some materials with which they were to create the word and the site on which they landed was oke-oramfe.

**POLITICAL STUCTURE OF THE PRE-COLONIAL YORUBA LAND**

The political structures of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature. The pattern of administration was hierarchical in nature. At the lowest level was the bale and at the highest level was the Oba.

**THE OYO EMPIRE- THE ALAAFIN ADMINISTRATION**

The Oyo Empire was unique in its system of administration. It had an oyomesi which was a council of seven members headed by Bashorun who acted as the prime minister

 **THE OGBONI CULT’S ADMINISTRATION**

Apart from the Alaafin’s cabinet, members of the oyomesi cult constituted another arm of government. They constituted a kind of counter power to the oyomesi as well.

**THE ARMY**

 The Are-Ona-Kankanfo was the head of this arm of government. He was expected to live outside the capital. The army was to perform functions like keeping stability

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN IGBO LAND**

The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary and acephalous way of life. They are grouped into five sub-cultures; The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, the Igbo of south- eastern Nigeria, the Igbo of North-eastern Nigeria, the western Igbo and Northern Igbo.

**POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE PRE-COLONIAL IGBO LAND**

There are some political structures which are the family, council of elders, age-grade association, secret societies, oha-na-eze, masquerades, ubinuknabi and so on

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN HAUSA LAND**

Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria. Oral tradition attributed the origin of Hausa states to a man named bayajida. The sarki was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. When Islam was adopted, many new political institutions were birthed. The whole former Hausa kingdom was divided into two confederations. The judicial administration of Hausa-Fulani was based on the Islamic ilegal system called sharia.

**COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION AND INDIRECT RULE SYSTEM IN NIGERIA HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Trans-Atlantic slave trade which got to maturity in the 16th Century was the unfortunate channel that first put British in contact with Nigeria. After three centuries of shameful slave trade, came the so- called period of legitimate commerce.

**THE BIRTH OF NIGERIA AS A GEO-POLITICAL ENTITY**

Before the year 1900, all the different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration, but by 1900, the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British colonial office. The British officers defined the framework of the policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personnel or the rulers.